

# THE SHELTER DISH

*The Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department*

*Spring 2006 Edition*

## Animal Services Aids Hurricane-Displaced Animals

In February 2006, five Fairfax County Animal Control Officers and one member of the shelter staff traveled 2,200 miles down to the Gulf Coast and back as part of a Northern Virginia regional effort to help animals in need at shelters in the areas hit hard by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The caravan included six Northern Virginia jurisdictions and took about 65 hours, but the effort was well worth it.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter was able to take in 14 dogs from the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi, helping offload some of the shelter's overcrowded runs.

The Katrina Dog Project was a huge success, representing a true collaborative effort. In addition to working with five other localities, Deepwood



A litter of puppies is prepared for transport from an overcrowded shelter in Mississippi. The puppies were adopted during a special event in February.

...continued on page 9

## Cat Foster Program Launches this Spring

Kitten season—it's the time of the year when cats and kittens rapidly fill shelters across the nation. To respond to this influx of felines, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter will be launching its first-ever cat and kitten foster care program.

The program will focus on providing in-home, individualized care for nursing mothers and their babies as well as young kittens who need to be bottle fed or are too young to be adopted. The program will also serve cats and kittens that need to go into foster homes for medical rehabilitation.

In addition to cats, fosters are needed for small mammals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters. If you can provide a temporary home for an animal in need, please contact Ellen Kamilakis at [ellen.kamilakis@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ellen.kamilakis@fairfaxcounty.gov).



# Fairfax Officer Receives Animal Services Award

## Employs Swiftwater Rescue Training to Save Citizen's Dog



Max the dog is transported to a local veterinary emergency clinic after falling off a cliff in Great Falls. Master Animal Control Officer Anthony Dorrzapf received an award for the rescue.

Fairfax County Master Animal Control Officer (MACO) Anthony Dorrzapf received an award from the Council of Governments Animal Services Committee for his rescue of a citizen's dog that had fallen and was stranded in a Fairfax County park.

MACO Dorrzapf responded to a call in March 2005 for Max, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever who had fallen 30 feet off a cliff and was stranded on rocks near the fast-moving rapids in Great Falls Park. Kayakers in the water near the cliff were reportedly trying to reach the pet to assist.

Together, members from the Fairfax County Fire Department and MACO Dorrzapf launched the Fire Department's Zodiac Boat in a joint response to the situation. Suited up with protective wet weather gear, including life vests and helmets,

MACO Dorrzapf proceeded with fire department personnel and the pet's guardian upriver to where the dog was stranded.

At the site, the rescue team scaled a rock wall to reach the dog. They strapped Max to a stretcher to lower him down into the boat, and to protect against further injury. Once back on shore, MACO Dorrzapf transferred Max to an animal control vehicle and transported him to the closest emergency veterinary hospital as the dog's guardian followed closely behind.

The rescue effort was an opportunity for MACO Dorrzapf to put to use American Humane Association training in technical animal rescue he had received in 1999. The training included swiftwater rescue techniques and high-low angle rope rescue using pulley systems and harnesses along with rappelling in animal rescue efforts. This training proved useful in the successful rescue of Max, preventing the dog from sustaining additional injuries. After a short visit at the veterinary office, Max was reunited with his family.

## Upcoming Events!

(Visit the shelter Web site for more details - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/>)

**April 16, 2006**

Deadline to turn in Volunteer Application for  
Fairfax County Animal Services Division

**May 21, 2006**

Rabies Clinic  
12 noon – 2 p.m.  
Fairfax County Animal Shelter

**June 3, 2006**

Herndon Doggie Expo  
9 a.m. – 12 noon  
Herndon Community Center

**June 9 – 11, 2006**

Celebrate Fairfax! Fair  
Fairfax County Government Center

# December Adoptions Increase by 36%

## *Fairfax Pets Find Homes for the Holidays*

The holidays are a time to spend with family. Recognizing this, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter set out on a mission to find good homes for deserving pets during the 2005 holiday season.

As part of the national Home 4 the Holidays campaign, the shelter worked with local non-profit organization DC Metro No More Homeless Pets and set a goal of increasing adoptions by 10 percent for the month of December 2005 over December 2004. The shelter not only met its adoption goal, but greatly surpassed it achieving a 36 percent increase in the number of pets who found new homes during the month.

Thanks to volunteers from both organizations, the shelter was able to open its doors to the public on three Sundays during December to give families a chance to meet animals available for adoption. More than 600 people entered the shelter's doors on the Sundays alone and more than 900 people visited the shelter on a separate day in December to adopt animals during the holiday season.

The special adoption event was a huge success for Fairfax pets in need.



Dixie, an 8-year-old Beagle and Jesse, a 10-year-old Golden Retriever mix find a home together as part of a special holiday adoption program.

## **Toys Comfort Child Dog Bite Victims**

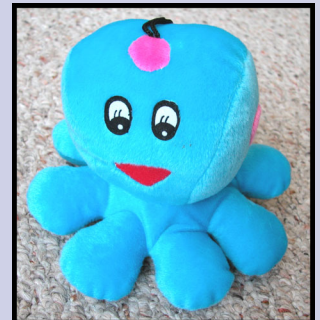
**National Dog Bite Prevention Week  
May 21 – 27, 2006**

Nearly 900 people suffered from animal bites in Fairfax County in 2005—637 dog bites and 220 cat bites making up the majority of cases. Sometimes, children are the unfortunate recipients of these animal bites.

To provide comfort to child bite victims, Fairfax County Master Animal Control Officer Jennifer Milburn keeps stuffed animal toys in her vehicle while out on patrol to have them on hand when called to a bite incident involving a child. She gives a stuffed toy to a child when she arrives on the scene.

In addition to consoling the child, being given a stuffed animal helps divert the child's attention away from the trauma of the bite and can help prevent the child from becoming upset, especially if medical attention is needed.

To help child animal bite victims, Brownie Troop #4146 at Clifton Elementary School is collecting stuffed animal toys. New stuffed animal toys can be dropped off in the organization's toy drive box at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter during the shelter's normal operating hours (see page 8 for hours). For more information, please call (703) 815-0931.





# Gulf Coast Rescue Journal:

## Going the Extra Mile to Help Animals in Need

*by Lea Ann Gross*

It was going to be a long trip, but I was both excited and anxious to make the journey to Gulfport, Mississippi. I was excited to see how other shelters operate and to be a part of something so important. I was anxious because it was going to be a long trip, involving a lot of hard work in a few hours, and my endurance was going to be tested. I was also scared of what I might see as far as the devastation that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita left on this battered area in our nation and its animals.

We started out in the wee hours of the morning on Thursday, Feb. 2 with three animal control vans. A few minutes later, we met up with shelter staff and animal control officers from five other jurisdictions at a rest stop on Route 66. With a caravan of seven vehicles, we set out on the journey to our first night's stay.



**A caravan of seven vehicles carrying staff from six area shelters and animal control agencies set off for the long journey to Gulfport, Miss.**

We still had four hours to drive the next morning to get to Gulfport and we were already exhausted from the long trip. We arrived at the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi (HSSM) at around noon. We were greeted by the shelter director and began meeting with the animals to see which ones we would be able to take back with us to Fairfax for adoption. It was a tough process, and we had to be careful to choose animals that were healthy enough to make the long trip to their new home.

I entered the shelter with Animal Control Field Supervisor Mary Zambrano to select the dogs we would be taking back with us. There were so many animals in need—two and three to a run in the overcrowded shelter, many of whom were the offspring of pets who had not yet been spayed or

neutered before their families were displaced by the hurricanes.

It was amazing to see the difference in the types of dogs and how breeds vary largely depending on what area of the country you're in. Visiting this rural area, I saw many hounds and hunting dogs—not typically the dogs we receive in the urban area of Fairfax.

Having the opportunity to visit this southern shelter made me thankful for the facilities we have at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Our shelter is paved with gold in comparison to what many citizens in rural counties (both in Mississippi and around the nation) have. I was shocked at what the HSSM had to work with and give their staff a lot of credit for accomplishing what they do with what they have. Many of their animals are not afforded the luxury of indoor, climate-controlled kennels like ours have in Fairfax and instead are housed in outside kennels with tarps over them to block the heat from the sun.

Working as a team, Mary and I selected the dogs that would be great candidates for adoption from our shelter. We then prepared the dogs for health checks, testing them for the dangerous parvovirus and heartworm and making sure their temperatures were not elevated. This process took about six hours and we still had six hours to drive to get to our hotels that night.

We left at about 6:30 p.m. and drove in the rain until about 2:30 a.m., stopping along the way to let the dogs out and to feed them. When we arrived at the hotel, we were extremely tired. We walked the dogs and put them to bed before we could catch a bit of sleep ourselves.

The next leg of our trip was a 12-hour drive the next day. We decided to get up at 8 a.m. and leave at around 9 a.m. after we had walked the dogs and fed them. It rained on-and-off the whole drive home which made walking the dogs fun. I must say the animal control vans are not made for long drives!

When we pulled into the Deepwood Veterinary Clinic in Centreville, Va., we felt a great sense of pride and relief for a job well done. It was about 10 p.m. on Saturday night and we still had to receive the dogs at the vet and get them settled there with proper vet



**Fairfax Shelter staff member Lea Ann Gross (r) and Animal Control Officer Pauline Rathbone explore an outdoor kennel area at the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi.**

records and identification. We drove 2,200 miles in about 65 hours.

I am glad I have had the opportunity to make this trip. It was an eye-opening experience that taught me how lucky we are to live in this county with the facilities we have. I have a lot of pride to have been a part of this wonderful rescue mission. I have always wanted to make a difference in the world and with the opportunity to make this trip combined with the humane education I am able to provide for children in this county through my job at the shelter, I feel I am making that difference. While we help animals every day here at the shelter, I can only hope I will have an opportunity like this again.

## Shelter Wish List

- Towels or Small Blankets
- Newspaper
- Food (canned and dry), Treats
- Toys, Leashes, Collars, Dishes, Crates, Cages
- Small Animal Supplies (Rabbit, Bird, Guinea Pig, Hamster cages, & foods)
- Flea medications such as Frontline or Interceptor
- Round fleece cat beds
- Carefresh litter for rabbits
- Timothy hay
- Rabbit food
- Paper Towels
- New Batteries (AA, AAA)
- Books on animal care and training
- Detergent
- Fabric softener
- Latex Gloves
- Shelter food: Nutro
- Airline Miles
- 19" television with video/DVD player for children's humane education classes

**County of Fairfax, Virginia**  
Department of Tax Administration  
12000 Government Center, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22031  
(703) 222-8234

**For Office Use Only:**  
Control Number \_\_\_\_\_  
License Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Rabies Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Breed Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Color Code \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Duplicate ☐ Renew ☐ Transfer ☐ Renewal  
☐ Cash ☐ Check

**Fee Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertile Dog: \$10.00 Spayed/Neutered Dog: \$5.00  
Please include a current certificate of rabies vaccination and, if applicable, spayed/neutered certificate.

Animal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Neutered  
Breed \_\_\_\_\_  
Color \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever licensed this dog before in Fairfax County? ☐ Y ☐ N

Valid only if stamped PAID by Department of Tax Administration

**LICENSE NOT SUBJECT TO EXCHANGE, TRANSFER, OR REDEMPTION.**  
County Ordinance (41-2-3H) requires that this receipt be carefully preserved by the licensee and presented upon request of the Animal Warden or other officer.

City, Town, Post Office \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Don't forget to purchase your Fairfax County Dog License!

Fairfax County dog licenses must be purchased annually. Please bring your rabies certificate and proof of sterilization. Licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Government Center. Licenses can also be purchased by mail to either location. License fees are \$5.00 for sterile dogs and \$10.00 for fertile dogs.

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**We would love for you to volunteer with us!**

**Please take a moment to read through this list to see if you would be interested in applying to become a Fairfax County Animal Services Division Volunteer.**

- The minimum age for volunteers is 16 years old.
- There is a required time commitment of three months and at least eight hours a month to volunteer with us.
- You must pass a basic criminal background check before you will be called for an interview.
- Volunteers sign up for time slots in the areas in which they are trained.

**Dog Kennel Assistant** - Assist in the socialization of dogs available for adoption by walking them in a specified area. Volunteers also assist caretakers with duties associated with animal care, cleaning cages, filling water bowls and taking animals out of cages to visit with potential adopters. This job also includes routine maintenance such as washing laundry, food pans, sweeping, etc.



**Grooming Assistant** - Assist caretakers with the grooming of animals at the shelter. Duties include bathing animals, clipping nails and other tasks related to the upkeep of an animal.

**Cat Kennel Assistant** - Assist in the socialization of cats available for adoption by handling, brushing, speaking softly, and playful contact. Duties also include spot cleaning cages, replacing water and cleaning litterboxes throughout the day.

**Small Mammal Assistant** - Assist caretakers with duties associated with rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and other small mammals. Duties include spot cleaning cages, replenishing water and hay and sweeping around cages. Volunteers also interact with the public and must have prior experience with small mammals.



**Front Office Assistant** - Assist the front office staff with such duties as updating lost and found reports, assisting citizens at the counter with the purchase of licenses, questions regarding adoption policies and other animal issues.

**Administrative Assistant** - Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with administrative duties in the volunteer office.

**Events/Tours Assistant** - Are you an extrovert? Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with guided tours of the shelter. Duties include providing groups of all ages and numbers detailed information about the Animal Services Division and acting as a representative of the Animal Services Division at public events.



**Photography Assistant** - Help us capture our adorable adoptables on camera. Take digital photos of the animals for the Web site.

**Adoption Follow-up Counseling** - Join **LAST**—the **Lasting Adoptions Support Team**—and become a part of the shelter's new Post-Adoption Follow-up and Support Program. Perform follow-up calls to citizens who have adopted a pet and provide counseling and advice to encourage lasting adoptions.

**Foster Care Provider** - Provide temporary, in-home care for cats, kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters or special needs dogs in your home. The shelter provides necessary care for the pet and you supply the love so the animal can be readied for adoption. Special training is provided for foster caretakers.

## Want an application?

Applications are available at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/volunteer.htm>. Online applications are available in Adobe PDF and Microsoft Word format.

### **Shelter Office Hours**

Tuesday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 a.m.

### **Adoption Hours**

Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

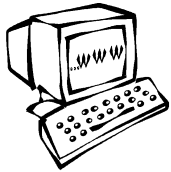
The Shelter is closed Sundays,  
Mondays and holidays.

**You can see animals available  
for adoption on Adopt-A-Pet  
on County Cable Channel 16.**

Sundays, Mondays and  
Fridays- 2:30 p.m.

Thursdays- 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays- 6:30 p.m.



**Check our listings at [www.petharbor.com](http://www.petharbor.com).  
Updated hourly!**

## **2006 Rabies Clinic Info**

**Reduced cost rabies clinic dates:**

**May 21**

**Sept 10**

**July 9**

**Nov 19**

(for dogs and cats only)

**Time:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Fairfax County Animal Shelter  
4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax,  
VA 22030

**Cost:** \$10.00

For everyone's safety, dogs should be on  
leashes and cats should be in carriers.

**No rabies tags will be issued!**

**2006 Dog licenses will be sold separately.**

(\$5 for altered animals, \$10 for unaltered  
animals)

Clinics are sponsored by Deepwood Veterinary Clinic and  
the Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services  
Division.

## **Did You Know ...**

- There were 23 positive rabies cases in Fairfax County in 2005.
- Even though the majority of the positive rabies cases last year involved wildlife, the county had one positive cat and two positive dogs.
- Due to the cyclical nature of rabies, 2006 is expected to have three times the number of positive cases than the previous year.
- The rabies vaccine that your kitten or puppy receives after four months of age is only good for one year, as opposed to the normal three year vaccine that adult animals receive.
- You need a current rabies vaccination in order to purchase your Fairfax County dog license.



## Katrina continued...

Veterinary Clinic also assisted by providing medical care and pre-adoption spay/neuter surgeries for the transported animals.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter's first-ever foster care program was also launched with this effort. Twelve volunteers stepped forward to serve as foster care providers for the 14 Katrina dogs rescued from the Gulf Coast. The foster care providers kept a daily journal of their fosters and were able to provide invaluable information about the personality of each dog.



Animal Control Officers from Fairfax County process medical and transfer paperwork to bring animals from the Gulf Coast back to Northern Virginia for adoption.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, the shelter opened its doors to host a special adoption event. Sixty people waited in line before the shelter even opened to have a chance at adopting one of the many pets in need. Within two hours, nearly all of the Katrina dogs had been adopted, and throughout the day, several additional special needs dogs and cats who had been waiting at the shelter for some time found adoptive homes as well. In total, nearly 700 people attended the special Sunday adoption event.

The shelter has continued to take in dogs displaced by Hurricane Katrina. If you or

someone you know is interested in adopting a Katrina pet or any other animal at the shelter, please visit the shelter at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

## Get your Animal Friendly license plates today!

As a revenue sharing plate, \$15.00 of the \$25.00 fee is transferred to the **locality in which the vehicle is registered** for support of dog and cat sterilization programs.



To purchase your Animal Friendly license plates, please visit your local DMV office, or visit <http://www.dmv.state.va.us>

# Get to Know...

## Volunteer Mickey Lasky

***Where were you born?***

-Miami, Florida

***How long have you been an animal shelter volunteer?***

-A little over two years

***What are some of your hobbies?***

-Working at the animal shelter :) Oh, and riding motorcycles, gaming, cooking, starting home improvement projects that I never finish and Internet security.

***What is your favorite job here and why?***

-I enjoy working at the front desk the most. That's where all the energy is, both positive and negative. You get to see the joy on people's faces as they prepare to take home their new family member. It's hard not to catch that excitement. And when people come in upset for their pets you're there to support them and lend them strength. Hopefully, when they leave, they have a positive impression of us because of the interactions we had.

***How many siblings do you have?***

-Two: A brother and a sister. They're twins. No, they are not identical.

***How many pets do you have?***

-I have two cats. A 15 year old female calico named Vree and a 13 year old male tuxedo named Alfie.

***What kinds of animals have you had during your lifetime?***

-When I was much younger in Miami, we had two dogs. In recent years, I've convinced my father to upgrade to cats. In addition to Vree and Alfie, I've had another cat that passed away. And, I recently got the chance to foster a Katrina dog named Marlene.

***What are some interesting things about you that we might not know?***

-I'm a part-time private investigator; I worked in television for eight years, and for CBS radio for two; I once took the entrance exam to be an FBI special agent, but I didn't pass the math portion; I've worked with the movie stand-in for Clint Eastwood; and I never bought any text books during my senior year of college.



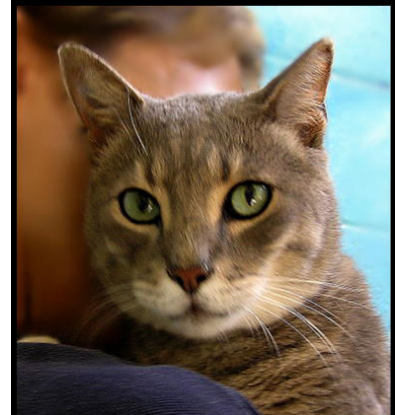
Mickey and two of the loves of his life, Vree (left) and his computer (right).

# Where are they now?

## *Adoption Updates from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter*

My new name is Teddy, maybe 'cause my person thought I looked like a big, snuggly bear. Well, I can be sweet, but I'll be the first to admit I have my devilish moments....

I landed in the Animal Shelter last October, looking like a real tough guy with a chunk freshly missing from my ear. These great people would always stop by and play with me, and make sure my area was nice and clean. I had to give them something to do, so I'd occasionally rearrange stuff and throw litter everywhere, just for fun. There's this one lady who came in once a week – I figured if I trained my big, gorgeous green peepers on her, I could convince her I was an alright guy. I was on my best behavior whenever she came around, and after only about six weeks, IT WORKED!! I finally convinced her I'd be a great new roommate.



Teddy and his person.

When I got home, I found I had a new playmate that was a lot like me. I heard my people calling her "Salem." Salem didn't really go for me at first, but perseverance pays!! I just continued to stalk her from behind any object I could, occasionally giving her a "stealth" pat on the behind and tearing off maniacally for the other room. Guess she couldn't resist my obvious charm ... now, sometimes our people catch us laying on the same couch, and even touching noses.

My people have this great big ol' bed, which of course now belongs to me. I like to snuggle up next to my people at night, laying strategically so they can't change positions. One of my favorite games is to wait until the middle of the night, when my people are REALLY groggy, and then I'll stand on their pillows just staring at them. If this burning gaze isn't enough to jar them from their slumber, a little nip to the head seems to do the trick. Especially with the lady – she'll jump right up, mumbling something I can't make out, and walk with me to the other room where my food is. Just what I wanted!

Anyhow, I think you can tell from the picture I'm a pretty content guy. I KNOW my people feel lucky to have me around, brightening every day and keeping them on their toes every night ... life is good.



Teddy working hard to get comfortable.

Love,  
Teddy



## Area Rescues Help Shelter Save More Lives in 2005

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter grew its Rescue Partner Program in 2005 resulting in a substantial increase in animals transferred to area animal rescue organizations last year.

The total number of animals transferred to private organizations in 2005 rose to 434—a 38 percent increase above the 315 that were moved to rescues the year prior. The shelter achieved a 51 percent increase in the number of rescue partnerships with organizations, bringing the total number to 50.

The increased transfer rate includes many success stories for animals that may otherwise not have had a chance at adoption without the assistance of private groups that were willing to step in and assist by taking on the responsibility of their special needs. In many instances, rescues took in animals from the shelter who had special medical needs, the costs of which were covered by the rescue.

“I am truly grateful to the rescue organizations that stepped forward to work with the shelter in 2005,” said Dr. Karen Diviney, shelter director. “We share a common vision that one day all adoptable, treatable or rehabilitatable animals in Fairfax County will find a loving, permanent adoptive home and working together is how we will move one step closer to making that vision a reality.”

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has a permanent open call for participation for humane organizations that wish to begin working with the shelter, and encourages private, 501(c)3 organizations to contact the shelter at (703) 830-1100 to become an approved rescue partner.



### Fairfax County Police Department *Animal Services Division*

4500 West Ox Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
(703) 830-1100 (Shelter)  
(703) 691-2131 (Animal Control Dispatch)  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals)



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To request this information in an alternate format, call Animal Services Division, (703) 830-1100 or TTY 711.